



BEHIND THE BUSINESS

“Mississippi’s economy is made up of the most creative, unique, and innovative businesses in the entire world. The Secretary of State’s Office is proud to spotlight these businesses, and provide support for all ventures which choose to invest in our great State.”

Dellunt



Southern Hospitality Services

Roy Patel and Nash Patel

Starting out as an immigrant from India working in a single hotel, Roy Patel has grown his family-centered hospitality business from the ground up. In just under 40 years, Patel has managed to develop, manage and own more than 22 hotels as well as



manage each of them through his company Southern Hospitality Services, LLC. The business itself strives to live up to its namesake by putting its many customers first and by maintaining a healthy, growing business model.

Southern Hospitality Services was founded by Roy Patel, developer and president, and Nash Patel, developer and vice-president, who shared a vision “to own and manage” their own hotel portfolio. It currently operates properties in Mississippi, Louisiana and California with new hotels in various stages of development.

“I came to this country in July 1977, and my in-laws had a hotel,” said Roy Patel. “I stayed with them and learned the business.” In less than a year, Patel had managed to buy his first hotel located in Livingston, California, which the first step of building what in 2003 would become the Southern Hospitality Services enterprise. He kept the hotel for one year before selling the property. Patel’s next step was to move to Redlands, California, and buy a 35-room independent hotel.

After three years, Patel and his family decided to sell the hotel in California and move to Waco, Texas, to pursue another closed hotel. The property provided Patel with experience in updating electrical and plumbing for the hotel site. After renovating it and opening for business, he sold it in 1982 and moved to Mississippi. His cousin had land in Vicksburg, Mississippi. They built the hotel from the ground up and it was open by the December of 1983.

Patel and his family decided to continue building franchise hotels instead of independent properties. Their franchises include Comfort Inn, Best Western, Hampton Inn, Hilton Garden Inn and Courtyard Marriott, Fairfield Inn & Suites, LaQuinta Inn & Suites, Home2Suites, Comfort Suites and Holiday Inn Express & Suites.

Patel describes his company is unique because it does not rely on third-party construction companies or management companies for hotel development. Instead, Patel has his own construction company SHS Development LLC located in Flowood and oversees its own properties in-house.

Southern Hospitality currently employs more than 400 workers but is still able to keep the business in the family. Patel says that his son and his daughter and their spouses are all in the business. “We are a family-run company because the second generation is now in the business. They’ve been born and raised here,” he said.